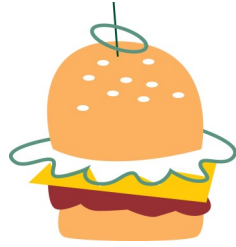




Emmanuel News



August
2017



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

MONTANA NAVY WEEK
NAVY BAND CONCERT



FREE 7PM
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17TH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

FRED & MARIE MILLER PAVILION
CORNER OF RIMROCK & SHILOH · BILLINGS, MT

FOOD & BEVERAGE AVAILABLE · BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS!



Worship in the Park

August 6, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Barkemeyer Park

In Huntley

Please bring your own chairs. A pot luck will follow the worship service. Bring your own table setting. Drinks will be provided.

Come join our brothers and sisters from Huntley United Methodist, Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Worden and Ballantine United Church of Christ for this time of worship and fellowship

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

As I write to you this month, I am also preparing my sermon our Annual Worship in the Park with our ecumenical partner congregations; Huntley United Methodist, Bethlehem United Church of Christ and Ballantine United Church of Christ. I am preaching on the Gospel text, Mark's version of the Feeding of the 5,000. The Old Testament Lesson for this Sunday from the 32nd chapter of Genesis is the story of Jacob wrestling with God at the Jabbok River. This has always been a favorite story of mine, so I decided to write a few words about it in my letter this month.

First of all, remember that Jacob is one of the biggest scoundrels in the Old Testament. He cheated his brother Esau out of his birthright. He steals the blessing of his father Isaac by pretending to be his brother Esau. He cheats his uncle Laban. Jacob is just not a nice guy! He was forced to flee from his brother Esau's anger. Later Jacob desires to return home and sends presents to his brother Esau hoping to assuage his brother's anger.

Just before he is about to meet Esau, not knowing whether he will be welcomed or killed by this brother, he came to the fork of the River Jabbok. He sends his wives and children and flocks across the river and remain behind where he spends the night wrestling with a man throughout the night. When the man saw that he could not prevail against Jacob he puts Jacob's hip out of joint. The man tells Jacob to let him go because the day was breaking. But Jacob would not let go unless the man gave him a blessing. The man asks Jacob his name. When Jacob tells him, the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." The man blesses Jacob and leaves. Jacob names the place where this wrestling match took place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." Jacob then



limped away from his encounter limping because of his hip.

Wow! What a story. Jacob wrestles with God and is not destroyed. Jacob wrestles with God and is given a new name. Jacob wrestles with God and is changed forever. Jacob wrestles with God and God blesses him and uses him to continue to fulfill the promises he made to Jacob's grandfather, Abraham and his father Isaac.

I like this story because I can identify with much of what Jacob was going through. I don't think I've been quite the scoundrel that Jacob was, but I've had my moments. I do know that I most certainly have spent nights wrestling with God. That, I believe is a most interesting thing. We can wrestle with God not be destroyed. We can take our questions, our struggles, our frustrations to God and go toe to toe with God and not be destroyed! We will however, just like Jacob, be changed. Jacob limped away from his encounter with God—he limped for the rest of his life. He not only had a new name, but a changed life. I believe that is what that limp symbolizes. Read the rest of the story sometime. The next day Jacob is greeted by his brother and welcomed home. He leaves his scoundrelhood behind and lives in a new relationship with God.

I too, have been changed by my wrestling with God. Now, don't get the wrong impression—I'm no great hero of the faith, but I am a different person than I used to be. My wrestling has made me confront many of the things that have not been in harmony with God's desire for me. I've had to give up many of my prejudices. I've had to learn to become more accepting, more loving, more forgiving. I have by no means made it to perfection, but I keep wrestling and limping along in life until God sees fit to welcome me home at last.

Thanks be to God who is full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Mark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is placed on a light-colored, rectangular background that looks like a piece of paper or a card.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

August is upon us now, which is typically the hottest month of the year, but this year doesn't seem to be too typical. Wow! July has been hotter than bacon in the frying pan, with little to no rain to speak of. I've often thought of trying to do a rain dance to see if that would help, but I'm not as good as some of my cousins when it comes to the rain dance. I can slow dance, line dance, turkey trot and dosey doe, none of which produce much rain. Unless of course, you count the tears of Mrs. T.C. that seem to flow as she laughs hysterically watching me strut my moves.

The heat has caused me other problems as well, as I've had computer problems all month. When I first told the Mrs. about the blue screen on my computer, she hollered back "operator error", but I knew that wasn't the case. I got a new used computer up and running and a few days later, the blue screen of death appeared again. I started to wonder if it was me, or something strange in my house.

Again the Mrs. set me straight, saying that I was the only thing strange in this house, and to maybe try a "new" computer instead of taking the cheap route on these used ones. Well, she was right once more, as the new computer has been working fine for almost a week now, allowing me to get my thoughts on paper and sent off for the newsletter. Finally, I have to say that the heat has also destroyed the "go" in my "giddy up", as I don't have much energy in the afternoons, more so now than ever before.

On the bright side, I managed to find a Flathead Cherry stand on my last adventure and bought a bucket of them. Boy, those babies are sweeter than candy! Then right down the road, I found a stand with sweet corn for sale. This will be the

first corn on the cob of the season for me, so I'm salivating like Pavlov's dog, just thinking about dinner tonight. I've got the main course of corn figured out, just need to throw a side of something on the old barbecue to call it good. By the way, the weekly church barbecues have been fantastic, as there always seems to be a bunch of people and plenty to eat. Sure is nice to see everyone come together for that week summertime ritual.

Oh, yeah, the county fair is coming to town in a couple of weeks, and I love to take in all of the sites, sounds and eats that come annually with this event. Maybe I will see you down there. Look for me, I'll be hanging out around the animal barns, watching the kids show their prized animals that they have raised for their 4-H projects. Also, I plan to attend the church service at Barkemeyer Park next Sunday, put on by all the local churches....you see, there is always a potluck afterwards and I don't want to miss that. Besides, I

will get to visit with my cousin, the Methodist Mouse, and his family that reside at the church in Huntley. I don't get to see them very often, as it is a long trip on foot, but Pastor Mark agreed to let me hitch a ride over there with him, so I couldn't pass that up. So, I'll see you in the park!

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C. Mouse, In Residence at Emmanuel



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

07/12/2017

Members present: Pastor Mark, Carol, Laurel, Kristianne, Randy, and Karen

DEVOTIONS: Read how people are taught to confess from the Catechism

SECRETARY: June meeting minutes were approved as written.

TREASURER: June offering was good for being a summer month. We are under \$8,900.00 on the parking lot loan. A motion was made and carried to open a savings account for any Memorial Funds received. This will allow the treasurer to keep record of any memorial donations, whether they are dedicated or non-dedicated funds. We have received \$1,975.00 in memorial funds YTD.

DEACONS: Nothing new to report.

TRUSTEES: None present

PASTOR: Text studies, senior citizen group, premarital counseling for a non-member wedding. Still planning to have confirmation in the fall for 6th graders. If you have a child that is past 6th grade but interested in being confirmed, talk to Pastor Mark. Pastor will be on vacation from 7/24-7/31. Dawn Petty will be leading worship on 7/30. Worship in the Park will be August 6. Will have details about this service on Sunday 7/16.

OLD BUSINESS: The Constitutional Committee (Pastor Mark, Maryann Morgenstern, Sharon Wolske, Kristianne Wilson, Ron Jore) has been busy reviewing our constitution and making suggested provisions. These changes create greater accountability of the council.

Here are some of the suggested provisions:

Chapter 11 – Officers: Addition of a vice president. Bylaw language added to describe responsibilities of the officers. Current constitution does not put limits on terms of secretary and treasurer. Should we consider increasing the terms from 1 year to 2 years, with the ability to serve 2 consecutive terms?

Chapter 12 – Congregational Council: Move to electing 6 undesignated council positions rather than 3 deacons and 3 trustees. Terms for these positions will remain at 3 years with the ability to serve 2 consecutive terms. Change Director of Youth Education (formerly Sunday School Superintendent) and Financial Secretary to council appointed positions. Chapter 13 – Congregation Committees: Describe the function of the Executive Committee and Audit Committee through a continuing resolution. Committee members are not to be Congregation Council members. The current constitution includes an Audit Committee which has not been our current practice. The proposed language suggests an external audit be considered at least every 5 years if Audit Committee findings indicate a need. Changes will have to be approved by Synod, council, and church. Once approved, a vote to make said changes will take place at our Annual Meeting.



NEW BUSINESS: Bob Wolske is requesting that the west side of the church (by the ditch) become part of the watering/gardening duties. Need to look at the spigots/hoses as watering both the garden area and the west side of the church cannot be done simultaneously due to water pressure issues. Progress

is being made on the pantry even though it may not look like it. Randy is going to make a list of the things that have been done and what is still to come so people can see the progress even though you may not see it. There are about 15 sheets of extra OSB that we can either sell to people at the church or they can be returned for a refund. If you are interested in buying any, please see Pastor Mark or Randy.

Counters/Communion Helpers

7/16 Karen
7/23 Kristianne
7/30 Carol

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next council meeting is August 9 at 7pm.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg, Secretary

LOVING SERVICE

Christikon Clips

August, 2017

Information for our Congregations



As you are reading this clip, we are readying for our last sessions of the season. We have hosted over 450 campers this season including Developmentally disabled adults, youth, families, and adults. We would welcome scholarship gifts as you are able for a wonderful group of new campers!

Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon.

We look forward to our congregational retreats scheduled this fall and there are still retreat times available to visit Christikon! Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.

We continue to ask for your prayers for those traveling to Christikon, our staff, and campers.

Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and financially. We are grateful.

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ— exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

CHRISTIKON • 1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

August 2017



The Synod House

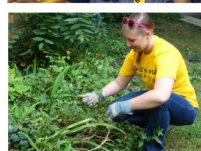
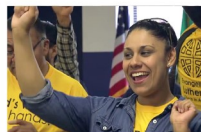
The special offerings will be received on August 13th and August 20th.



Every now and then when I'm in church I notice that the altar cloth is a different color. Did it just happen or was I just not observant last week or the week before or even the week before that? Well who knows. I checked on the church-year calendar in the back of the church and found out that the altar cloths are changed about 15 times a year. With that many changes maybe I'm not as unobservant as I thought. And who changes these cloths? Well right now the task is done by LuAnne Super. She has been doing this for about a year. Before that Willa Jean McSweyn did it for 8 or 9 years. It's a task I don't think I'd want because I'm sure I'd goof up a miss a Sunday somewhere! And while we're discussing color changes in the church, are you aware that Pastor Mark's stole is always the same color as the altar cloths? Hmmm—I'll just bet this isn't coincidence.

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday
Sept. 10, 2017**

SAVE THE DATE



Thank You

Emmanuel Lutheran Church,
Thank you very much for the scholarship money. I really appreciate it. I used it to buy my text books for fall semester.

Thanks again,
Melissa Mervette

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Members:

Esther and Bill Green; Meagan Malchow with various health issues; Clarence Beddes, at home; Lee Borgen, Doreen McKenney's father, has various health issues following total knee replacement; Rita Pickard, Jim McKenney's mom is back home and has been diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer; Monty Mavity, who is quite ill with cancer; Nancy Byxbe; Laura Vanberg's niece, Fawne McCleary who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; Colleen Garberg, mother of Rachele Garcia in now at Tender Nest Assisted Living; The family of Jenny Ingram as they mourn the death of her son, John Ladd; Matt Walsh's friend Danny, who was seriously injured in a car accident; Abbey Emmons, home from the hospital but still recovering from cellulitis; Lois Sneva (mother of Connie Herberg) from Plentywood, at home from the hospital and getting a little stronger; Rose Field (sister of Agnes Beddes) hospitalized; Robert Larson, Dawn Petty's son, in the penitentiary at Rochester, Minnesota, had hip replacement surgery a week ago, and is in therapy there now.

Friends of the Congregation:

Katie Rightmire ALS; Kynzee Cooper, continuing to recover from her accident; Spencer Beddes, with kidney problems; Caitlyn Beley, a woman in her 30's with brain cancer; Ali McCarty, daughter of Greg and Vicky McCarty, in rehab following a horse accident; Eileen Harbaugh has difficulty walking, problems with her legs, and other difficulties; Debra Ruona; Georgia Wageman, recovering from open heart surgery recently in Salt Lake City; Ardis Hanson of Shepherd, had another surgery and is now recovering at Advanced Care Hospital; Caden Ricky recovering from surgery; Diane Webb, friend of the Christmans, recovering from surgery; Autumn Rightmeier, a 5½ month old "Down's Syndrome" baby of April Rightmeier, having surgery on August 10th; Keith Dove, many health issues; Judy Smelser, home from the hospital and will be having shoulder surgery later.

Community Living:

St. John's:

Eva Swenson; Esther Green, *Jensen Cottage*

West Park Village: Lenora Weist, Esther Bengtson

Parkview Care Center: Bill Green

Yellowstone County Jail: Chance Mavity

Rob Larson, MN

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers



- 06 Bill Moen
- 09 Judy Osmundson
- 17 Carla Leligdowicz
- 19 Bill Green
- 20 Wade Malchow
- 21 David Hoffman
- 28 Maryann Morgenstern
- 29 Emilie Christman
- 31 Phyllis Stahl



17 Craig & Kristianne Wilson



AUGUST 2017

Sun

Mon

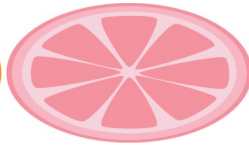
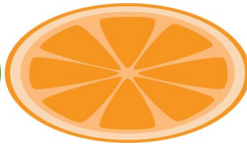
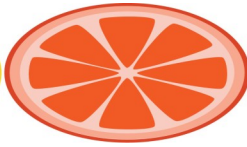
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



July 2017							1	2	3	4	5
S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
						1		6:00 Community BBQ			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		 6:00 Community BBQ 7:00 Church Council			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29					1:00 Cub Scouts
30	31							6:00 Community BBQ			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12					
No Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship in the Park @ Huntley											
13	14	15	16	17	18	19					
8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Kuntry Kritters 4-H	7:00 Shepherd Pioneers 4-H		6:00 Community BBQ								
20	21	22	23	24	25	26					
8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship								6:00 Community BBQ			
27	28	29	30	31	September 2017						
8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship		5:00 Cub Scouts			S	M	T	W	T	F	S
										1	2
					3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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					17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Address Service Requested

Shepherd, MT 59079
P.O. Box 66

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

We have a mission . . .

Emmanuel Lutheran is
a welcoming church in a rural
community, called by God
to joyful worship
caring relationships and
loving service.

We have a vision . . .

“We will follow God’s plan for us
to grow in faith, family,
and community.”

elcshepherd.org – elcshepherd@gmail.com



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING